

Bill No. SB 898

Barcode 690942

587-1879-05

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Health Care

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to rabies prevention and
3 control; amending s. 828.30, F.S.; requiring a
4 veterinarian to vaccinate certain animals with
5 a vaccine that is licensed by the United States
6 Department of Agriculture; establishing
7 revaccination requirements; prohibiting using
8 evidence of rabies antibodies in lieu of
9 revaccination; revising the requirements for
10 certificates of rabies vaccinations; requiring
11 the use of a certain form for certifying a
12 vaccination; authorizing the administering
13 veterinarian to use a signature stamp on the
14 vaccination certificate; prohibiting a local
15 government from requiring revaccination of
16 currently vaccinated animals, except for
17 postexposure treatment; providing legislative
18 findings; providing an effective date.

19

20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21

22 Section 1. Section 828.30, Florida Statutes, is
23 amended to read:

24 828.30 Rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and
25 ferrets.--

26 (1) All dogs, cats, and ferrets 4 months of age or
27 older must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian against
28 rabies with a vaccine that is licensed by the United States
29 Department of Agriculture for use in those species
30 ~~Government-approved vaccine. The owner of each dog, cat, and~~
31 ferret shall have the animal vaccinated 12 months after the

587-1879-05

initial vaccination. Thereafter, the interval between
vaccinations must conform to the vaccine manufacturer's
directions. The cost of vaccination must be borne by the
 animal's owner. Evidence of circulating
rabies-virus-neutralizing antibodies may not be used as a
substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposure
or determining the need for booster vaccinations.

(2) A dog, cat, or ferret is exempt from vaccination
 against rabies if a licensed veterinarian has examined the
 animal and has certified in writing that at the time
 vaccination would endanger the animal's health because of its
 age, infirmity, disability, illness, or other medical
 considerations. An exempt animal must be vaccinated against
 rabies as soon as its health permits.

(3) Upon vaccination against rabies, the licensed
 veterinarian shall provide the animal's owner and the animal
 control authority with a rabies vaccination certificate. Each
animal control authority and veterinarian shall use Form 51,
"Rabies Vaccination Certificate," of the National Association
of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) or an equivalent
form approved by the local government which contains all the
information required by NASPHV Form 51. The veterinarian who
administers the rabies vaccine to an animal as required under
this section may affix his or her signature stamp in lieu of
an actual signature. which must contain at least the following
information:

~~(a) the license number of the administering~~
~~veterinarian.~~

~~(b) The name, address, and phone number of the~~
~~veterinarian and owner~~

~~(c) The date of vaccination~~

587-1879-05

- 1 ~~(d) The expiration date of the vaccination.~~
- 2 ~~(e) The species, age, sex, color, breed, weight, and~~
- 3 ~~name of the animal vaccinated.~~
- 4 ~~(f) The rabies vaccine manufacturer.~~
- 5 ~~(g) The vaccine lot number and expiration date.~~
- 6 ~~(h) The type and brand of vaccine used.~~
- 7 ~~(i) The route of administration of the vaccine.~~
- 8 ~~(j) The signature or signature stamp of the licensed~~
- 9 ~~veterinarian.~~
- 10 (4) Beginning March 1, 1999, each ferret vaccinated
- 11 according to this section must be quarantined, when necessary,
- 12 according to rules of the Department of Health.
- 13 (5) An animal owner's name, street address, phone
- 14 number, and animal tag number contained in a rabies
- 15 vaccination certificate provided to the animal control
- 16 authority is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of
- 17 the State Constitution. However, any person who has been
- 18 bitten, scratched, or otherwise exposed to a zoonotic disease
- 19 or the physician of such person; a veterinarian who is
- 20 treating an animal that has been bitten, scratched, or
- 21 otherwise exposed to a zoonotic disease; or the owner of an
- 22 animal that has been bitten, scratched, or otherwise exposed
- 23 to a zoonotic disease shall be provided with any information
- 24 contained in a rabies vaccination certificate but only with
- 25 respect to the particular animal biting, scratching, or
- 26 otherwise causing exposure. Any person with an animal tag
- 27 number may receive vaccination certificate information with
- 28 regard to that animal. Law enforcement and prosecutorial
- 29 agencies; other animal control authorities; emergency and
- 30 medical response and disease control agencies; or other
- 31 governmental health agencies shall be provided information

Bill No. SB 898

Barcode 690942

587-1879-05

1 contained in the rabies vaccination certificate for the
2 purpose of controlling the transmission of rabies; however,
3 the receiving agencies and authorities must not release the
4 exempt information.

5 (6) Violation of this section is a civil infraction,
6 punishable as provided in s. 828.27(2).

7 (7) This section does not prohibit or limit
8 municipalities or counties from enacting requirements similar
9 to or more stringent than the provisions of this section for
10 the implementation and enforcement of rabies-control
11 ordinances. However, a local government may not establish
12 requirements that would mandate revaccination of currently
13 vaccinated animals, except for instances involving the
14 postexposure treatment of rabies.

15 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is necessary
16 to require that dogs, cats, and ferrets be vaccinated against
17 rabies in order to protect the public from this deadly
18 disease. The Legislature also finds that the present law does
19 not clearly specify requirements to revaccinate these animals,
20 which has led to unnecessary revaccination of currently
21 vaccinated animals in local jurisdictions that enact
22 requirements that are more stringent. The Legislature finds
23 that in order to maximize protections and minimize risks to
24 the animals, revaccination guidelines outlined in the
25 Department of Health's Florida Rabies Prevention and Control
26 guidebook must be incorporated in the law. This approach does
27 not interfere with the veterinarian's discretion to use a
28 rabies vaccine of 1 year or 3 years' duration of immunity. The
29 Legislature also determines a need to standardize the rabies
30 certificate form in order to permit easier use by

31 veterinarians and public health officials by using Form 51 of

Bill No. SB 898

Barcode 690942

587-1879-05

the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians
or an equivalent form approved by the local government. The
Legislature finds that since rabies-vaccination programs are
administered on a calendar-year basis, an implementation date
of January 1, 2006, will provide for an orderly transition.

Section 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2006.